

From: Erick (038) Vielka(a)Home noSpam
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

TO the DOJ

As a concerned citizen and a person who makes a living with computers I feel an obligation to send you a comment on the Microsoft settlement. To the point, It is unjust. Microsoft was found to be a predatory monopoly. They still will admit no wrong. Their track record shows that they will not abide by the letter or spirit of this settlement. You seek to place certain people as "watchdogs" over Microsoft yet you cripple them with non-disclosure. Personally I am not a big fan of breaking up Microsoft. However letting them retain all of their code as secret and sacred without prohibiting them from adding additional "functionality" is a free ticket for more them to continue as they always have. At the very least you must force them to document and disclose their api's this one action will allow others to start to compete on a fairer playing field. What your about to do is sentence everyone to continue to be unable to start to provide an alternative and build a business on it. Microsoft claims that Linux is competition. In many ways this is almost true. However because of Microsoft's history of co-opting creative peoples work changing it just enough and then adding a feature to their os the Linux community has been forced to adopt the GNU license. This means that most development is done for love and not money. This issue frightens many companies that would like to develop and market software to stay away. Microsoft will either steal their idea and put them out of business change their API's to not work with your software and cause you millions in bad press and development. Thanks for listening, please stop this embarrassment of a settlement from going forward. It is anti-competitive, it allows Microsoft to continue all of it's illegal practices, and it is plain unjust.

Sincerely

Erick Jones

I am a registered voter, I do vote, And I have a long memory